

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICE**107 SOUTH BROADWAY, ROOM 7011  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(213) 620-2380

**SFUND RECORDS CTR  
2090843**PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT SUMMARYWestern Electroplating Company  
820 West Esther Street  
Long Beach, CA 90813

July 1985

Preparer: Richard Brausch  
Toxic Substances Control Division  
Southern California Section  
(213) 620-2380History and Problem:

This site was first occupied in 1940 by an electric motor repair shop. There is no information available to indicate the name of the company or any other specific practices or processes.

In 1951, Western Electroplating Company began operating on this site. They operated a chrome electroplating facility. Wastes included neutralized acid solutions and clarifier sludges. These were regularly removed to a disposal site. The wastewater was regularly tested for disposal into the Los Angeles County industrial sewer. None of these tests showed the effluent over the standards. These processes continued through 1984.

In 1984, a fire destroyed the interior of the facility. In fighting the fire, the fire department spilled the acid and caustic solutions. These entered the sewer system, but were contained at a pumping station and later, legally disposed of. Since then, the site has been vacant, and the only equipment remaining is the three-stage clarifier, which is underground.

Recommendation:

No evidence of on-site disposal of hazardous wastes has been found in regulatory agency records. Though spillage of toxic materials occurred at the time of the fire, there is evidence that this situation was mitigated. Staff recommends no further action under the Abandoned Site Assessment program.

A copy of this P.A. will be provided to the City of Long Beach Department of Environmental Health.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT  
Region 9

Preparer's Name Richard Brausch

Date July 1985

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
1. Site I.D. Number	<i>RCRA</i>	<i>OAD 008 501 215</i>
2. Site Name	California Dept. of Health Services (DOHS) Abandoned Site Project (ASP), Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), Form 8015 01-05-82	Western Electroplating Company
3. Site Location	DOHS, ASP, SWIS Form 8026, 01-05-82	820 West Esther Street Long Beach, CA 90813
4. County	Same as #2	Los Angeles County
5. Owner (Address & Telephone No.)	Los Angeles County Tax Assessor 07-08-85	Western Electroplating Company 1000 S. Petrolia Avenue Compton, CA 90221 (213) 639-9490
6. Operator (Address & Telephone No.)	DOHS, Abandoned Site Assessment Program (ASAP) Industrial Waste	Western Electroplating Company 1000 S. Petrolia Avenue Compton, CA 90221 (213) 639-9490
7. Type of Ownership	Same as #5	Private
8. Status	DOHS, ASAP, Drive-by, Brausch/Wood, 05-31-85	Inactive
9. Source Activity	a) Same as #6	1951-1984: Chrome Electroplating
	b) Long Beach City	1940-1951: Electric Motor Repair

Planning 03-01-85

## Region 9

Preparer's Name Richard Brausch

Date July 1985

continued

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
10. Years of Operation	a) Same as #8	1984 - present: vacant
	b) Same as #6	1951-1984: Western Electroplating Company
	c) Same as #9 (b)	1940-1951: Electric motor repair company
11. Facility Type	a) Los Angeles County	1951-1984: sump, 3 stage clarifier
	b) Same as # 9 (b)	1940-1951: none documented
12. Waste Type and Description	Same as #6	Western Electroplating: acid sludge, plating sludge and solution

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

2

13. Contacts:

F. Banales, Senior Sanitarian, Long Beach Environmental Health (213) 427-7421

R.D. Deforest, production Manager, Western Electroplating (213) 639-9490

14. Incidents:

05-25-84 Fire, responded to by Long Beach Fire Department, interior of facility destroyed, all plating solutions spilled, later contained and subsequently removed.

15. Inspections:

05-31-85: ASAP Drive-by, Brausch/Wood, Site currently vacant.

05-25-84: Long Beach Environmental Health, acid and caustic contamination of site due to fire cleaned up shortly after.

03-22-83 ASP Drive-by, RP/SS, site active.

16. Enforcement History:

None documented.

17.a. Initial recommendation for further action:

No evidence of on-site disposal of hazardous wastes has been found in regulatory agency files. Though spillage of toxic materials occurred at the time of the fire, there is evidence that this situation was mitigated. Staff recommends no further action under the Abandoned Site Assessment Program.

A copy of this P.A. will be provided to the City of Long Beach Department of Environmental Health.

17.b. EPA recommends no further action. File documentation supports conclusion in line 17.a.

reviewed by Rob Saunders, 1/2/86 See file 2/10/80

19. Final Determination: X No Further Action

July 1985 inspection by Long Beach Dept. of Environ - 1/18/83  
mental/Health reports no uncontrolled  
hazardous waste problem exists at this site.

2-10-86 Paul G. Courneye

	SOURCE	INFORMATION
19. Observed Release		
20. Depth to Aquifer		
21. Net Precipitation Net seas. rainfall Evaporation		
22. Permeability of Unsaturated Zone		
23. Physical State		
24. Containment (Ground Water)		
25. Toxicity		
26. Persistence		
27. Waste Quantity		
28. Ground Water Use		
29. Distance to Well		
30. Population Served (by Ground Water)		

Name Western Electrolighting  
Address 820 W. Esther  
City, Zip Long Beach 90813

Map # \_\_\_\_\_  
Map coord. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
SIC \_\_\_\_\_

SITE DRIVE-BY ("2102")

1. Status      a. Active ( )  
                    Inactive ☒  
2. Setting      a. Urban ☒  
                    Suburban ( )  
                    Rural ( )  
                    b. Residential ( )  
                        Commercial ( )  
                        Industrial ☒  
                        Other ( )  
                    c. Near: RR tracks ☒  
                        Drainage ( )  
                        Freeway ( )  
                        Other ( )  
3. Waste      a. Group 1 ( )  
                    Group 2 ( )  
                    Group 3 ( )  
                    b. Liquid ( )  
                        Sludge ( )  
                        Solid ( )  
                        Other ( )  
                    c. Undetermined ( )  
                        None visible ( )  
4. Waste Containment      a. Pond ( )  
                                    Sump ( )  
                                    Pit ( )  
                    b. Piled ( )  
                        Scattered ( )  
                    c. Drums/Bbls ( )  
                        Pails/Cans ( )  
                        Dumpster ( )  
                        Trash cans ( )  
                        Boxes/Pallets ( )  
                        Bags/Sacks ( )  
                        Tanks ( )  
                        Vehicles ( )  
                        Other ( )  
                    d. To: Ground ( )  
                        Paving ( )  
                        Drain ( )  
                        Other ( )  
5. Misc.      a. Odors \_\_\_\_\_  
                    b. Topography \_\_\_\_\_  
                    c. Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_  
                    d. Site observability \_\_\_\_\_

6. Map      A graphic site description. In addition to the above categories, describe/comment on the following: Buildings, Paving, Storage (other than waste materials), Security, Vacant Areas, and Housekeeping. Don't forget to identify streets, landmarks, directions, etc.

Site unoccupied & very dirty looking  
1/2 yard paved & 1/2 unpaved

Western Electrolighting & Ipec internatl.  
840 W Esther

all up for sale

Daym Realty  
Chad Fester (agent) (213) 549-9444

7. EVALUATION      a. Possible abandoned site ( )  
                    b. No problem ("2110") ( )  
                    c. ASP follow-up ( ) : \_\_\_\_\_  
                    d. Referral ( ) to: \_\_\_\_\_

Date 5-31-85  
Name D.W. & R.B.

From drive-by on 5-31-85 by PW & R.B



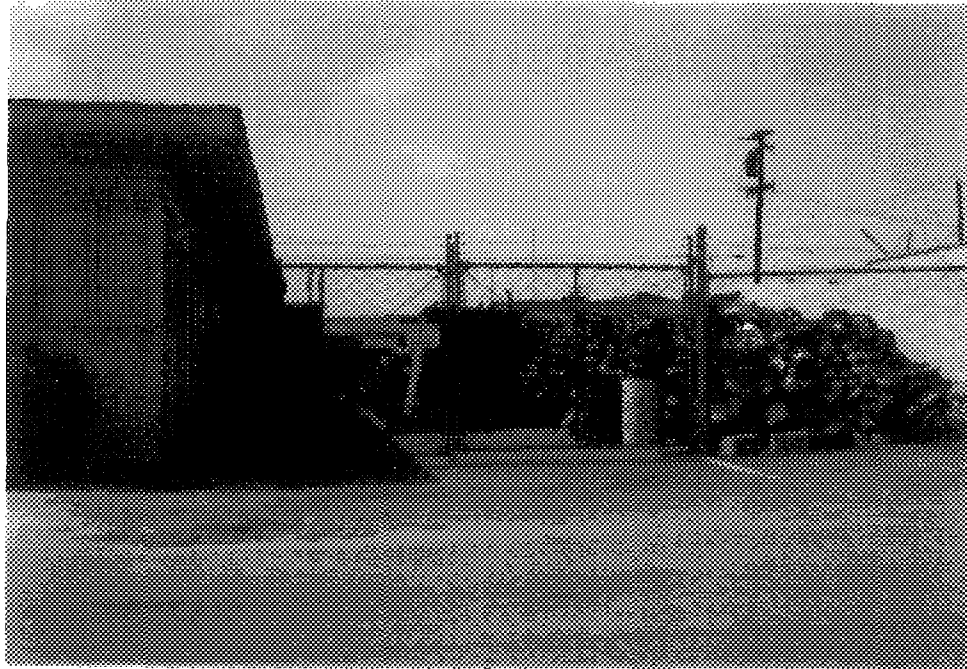
Eastern edge of site as seen from Esther



View from Esther

ASAP 5-31-85

From drive-by on 5-31-85 by P.W. & R.B.



View of Western portion of site



View from the corner of Esther & San Francisco

ASAP 5-31-85





**City of Long Beach**

2655 Pine Avenue • Telephone 427-74

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NO. OF UTS

PAGE # 1 of 2

## OFFICIAL INSPECTION REPORT

5254

OWNER/OCCUPANT PHONE

**SANIT**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME OF DAY

5/0

5-21-84

OWNER/OCCUPANT NAME

### Situs

**Address**

820 W. ESTHER

MAILING ADDRESS  
(IF DIFFERENT) \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ESTABL

HW-1

During an inspection of the premises at the above address, the following violation(s) were noted which require correction within the time indicated.

CORRECTION DATE

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION SHOWS MUCH GREEN  
COLORED STANDING WATER ACCUMULATED ~~ON~~ ON THE  
FLOOR THROUGHOUT THE BLDG. AS WELL AS MULTI-  
COLORED SLUDGE.

THE FIRE RUN-OFF WATER IS BEING STORED IN THE PUMP STATION AT THE PUBLIC SERVICE YARD. AT MY REQUEST KEN PHILLIPS & BOB PAI-RITCHIE TOOK A SAMPLE OF THE WATER FOR ANALYSIS FOR COPPER (CU), CADMIUM (CD), ZINC (ZN), TRIVALENT CHROME (CR<sup>+3</sup>) AND NICKLE. THE pH OF THE WATER ~~WAS~~ WAS MEASURED TO BE  $\approx 6$  USING pH STRIPS, SO CYANIDE SHOULD NOT BE PRESENT.

I THEN MET W/ LBFD ARSON SQUAD MEMBERS. McLUPE & JACOBSON INVESTIGATING THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE. AT THIS TIME THE INVESTIGATORS FEEL THE FIRE WAS DELIBERATELY SET, AND HAVE SEVERAL POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.

DURING THE INVESTIGATION, ~~EX~~ ARSON INVESTIG.  
JACOBSON WAS EXPOSED TO THE ACCUMULATED  
LIQUID IN THE DIKED AREA AROUND THE  
PLATING BATHS WHICH BEGAN BURNING HIS HAND.  
THE pH OF THE MATERIAL AS SHOWN BY pH INDICA

SIGNING FOR RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE NOTICE IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF THE FACTS OF THE VIOLATION(S) SET FORTH THEREIN.

Received By \_\_\_\_\_

Reinspection Date

**Representative**

**OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Type of Visit R F CP TC LA PL CON	No. Visit 1	Violations M 1 2 3 4	Correction M 1 2 3 4	Referral		
W.U.P. for:	Areas Treated	Areas Abated	Routine Samples	Follow-up Samples	Order Issued	Device/Permit/EIR/Variance/License AG/R DC/F
Inspection	Areas Follow-up	Animal Brain	Complaint Samples	Other Samples/Type	Abated Order	RP/C VB/G
Samples						

5-25-84

LB EH ~~XXXXXX~~

#2 of 2  
Telephone: 427-7421

OFFICIAL INSPECTION REPORT (Continued)

5754  
Date 5-21-84

820 W. ESTHER

WESTERN ELECTROPLATING CO.

Address 820 W. ESTHER

On inspection of the premises at the above address, the following violation(s) were noted which require correction within the time indicated.

STRIPS WAS 13-14. I HAD MR. JACOBSON THOROUGHLY WASH HIS HANDS AND ADVISED HIM TO PRESENT HIMSELF TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TO HAVE IT EXAMINED BY A PHYSICIAN. I OBTAINED A SAMPLE OF THE LIQUID AND TOOK IT TO THE CHEM. LAB TO HAVE IT ANALYZED FOR CYANIDES DUE TO THE HIGH pH. AT THIS TIME, KEN PHILLIPS WAS COMPLETING THE FIRE RUN-OFF WATER ANALYSIS ON THE ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER. THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Cu = 1.8 ppm (STLC = 125 ppm)
- Co = < 0.1 ppm (STLC = 1.0 ppm)
- Zn = 7.9 ppm (STLC = 250 ppm)
- Cr<sup>+3</sup> = 1.3 ppm (STLC = 560 ppm)
- Ni = 240-280 ppm (STLC = 20 ppm)

SINCE THE LEVEL OF NICKEL IN THE WATER EXCEEDS THE STLC (SOLUBLE TRESHOLD LIMIT CONCENTRATION) AS ESTABLISHED IN THE CALIF. ASSESSMENT MANUAL FOR HAZ. WASTES (CAM), THE WATER MUST BE MANAGED AND DISPOSED OF AS A HAZARDOUS WASTE. I CONTACTED MR. BOB DE FOREST AND INFORMED HIM OF THIS FACT.

SIGNING FOR RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE NOTICE IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF THE FACTS OF THE VIOLATION(S) SET FORTH THEREIN.

Received By:

Inspection Date:

Representative:

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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SIGNING FOR RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE NOTICE IS NOT AN ADMISSION OF THE FACTS OF THE VIOLATION(S) SET FORTH THEREIN.

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_ By: *R. D. Phillips* R.S. DISTRICT SANITARIAN